GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:587
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
PROPOSED REFORMS OF THE UN
Chandrappan Shri C.K.;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a US Special envoy, Mr. Sherin Tahir Kheli, tasked with developing Washington`s position on UN-reforms including expansion and democratization of the UN Security Council, visited New Delhi in May this year;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal put forth and articulated by Mr. Tahir;

(c) the response of the Government thereto;

(d) whether India and some other countries circulated a draft resolution on the proposed reforms of the UN; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of other countries thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a)-(c) Yes. During her visit in May, 2005 to New Delhi, Ms. Shirin Tahir-Kheli discussed a range of issues relating to UN reforms, including UN Security Council reform. This provided an opportunity for mutual exchange of views on these issues.

(d) India, Brazil, Germany and Japan - now being termed as the Group of Four (G-4) countries - have introduced a Resolution on UN Security Council Reform on July 11, 2005 in the UN General Assembly. The G-4 Resolution calls for an expansion from the present 15 to a total of 25 members, by adding 6 new permanent and 4 new non-permanent members. The G-4 proposes to carry out reform through a three-step process consisting of a decision on a Framework Resolution, the election of new permanent members in the General Assembly and, subsequently, the adoption of a resolution for revisions to the Charter after the designation of new permanent members.

(e) There is a steady accretion of support for the G-4 Resolution which is co-sponsored by 31 countries. In this context, discussions are currently underway in the UN in New York.